Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (Currently Amended) A discontinuous transmission controller, comprising:

a vocoder for generating active vocoder frames from a digitized audio signal at a predetermined output rate if speech is present, for generating inactive vocoder frames during periods of speech inactivity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver, and for generating transition vocoder frames during transitions from speech activity to speech inactivity, said transition vocoder frames comprising comfort information; and

a state vector generator for incrementing a state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame, wherein the state vector generator is disabled for each inactive vocoder such that the state vector is not incremented for each inactive vocoder frame.

35.   (Previously Presented) The controller of claim 34, wherein the comfort information comprises background noise information.

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Previously Presented) The controller of claim 34, wherein the controller is further adapted to encrypt each generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

38.   (Canceled)

39.   (Currently Amended) A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

determining a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

generating inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver;

generating a state vector; [[and]]

incrementing the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame[[.]]; and

disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame such that the state vector is not incremented for each inactive vocoder frame.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Canceled)

45.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[43]] 39, further comprising encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

46.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

    means for determining a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;

    means for generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

    means for generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

    means for generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

    means for generating inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver;

    means for generating a state vector; [[and]]

    means for incrementing the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame[[.]]; and

    means for disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame such that the state vector is not incremented for each inactive vocoder frame.

47.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

48.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

49.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

50.   (Canceled)

51.   (Canceled)

52.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[50]] 46, further comprising:

means for encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames by using the state vector.

53.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for controlling discontinuous transmissions, said instructions being executable by at least one computer to:

determine a speech activity level in a received digitized audio signal;

generate a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generate active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generate transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

generate inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity, wherein the inactive vocoder frames are not transmitted to a receiver;

generate a state vector; [[and]]

increment the state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame[[.]]; and

disable the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame such that the state vector is not incremented for each inactive vocoder frame.

54.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein said transition vocoder frames comprise comfort information.

55.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein said comfort information comprises background noise information.

56.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 53, wherein the speech activity level is a voice activity level.

57.   (Canceled)

58.   (Canceled)